

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please substitute the following Abstract for the Abstract now appearing in the present specification:

A process for producing powder, flakes, or pellets containing  $\alpha$ -sulfo fatty acid alkylester salt in high concentrations, the process including: (1) a step of preparing a paste containing  $\alpha$ -sulfo fatty acid alkylester salt; (2) a step of aging the thus obtained paste; (3) a step of making the aged paste into flakes or pellets containing equal to or less than 10 wt% of water and then optionally crushing the resulting flakes or pellets into a powder having an average particle diameter of 100-1500  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and (4) a step of aging the powder, flakes, or pellets.